registered with any government agency. In view of this it is not possible to conduct any systematic and detailed study in this aspect. It is left to the exporter-importer to enter into contracts in any currency.

Vacant Posts of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

1020. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many posts of Judges are lying vacant in the Supreme Court and the High Courts;

(b) how many cases are pendig in the above Courts at present; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ease the burden of workload on these Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There are 6 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and 70 vacancies of Judges/ Additional Judges in various High Courts.

(b) 200566 cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 31-1-1989 and 1615152 cases were pending in various High Courts of the country as on 31-12-1987.

(c) Recommendations for reducing arrears, on the basis of a Report by a Committee of 3 Chief Justices, have been sent to the High Courts for appropriate action. The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 450 in February, 1989. The Judge strength of the Supreme Court has also been raised from 18 to 26.

Persons killed by Wild Elephants i Assam

1021. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAI RAVARTY: Will the Minister of EN VIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pl ased to state·

(a) whether Government are awa of the depredation of several rur areas of Assam by the wild elephan thus creating a sense of consternatic in the hearts of people;

(b) whether it is a fact that wi elephants have killed a good numb of people in certain areas in Assam

(c) if so, what is the total num of persons killed by wild elephants Assam during the period from 1986 1988; and

(d) whether Central Governme have acceded to the request made l the Assam Government for permissic to catch wild elephants in the fores of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRO MENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. I ANSARI): (a) and (b) Governme are aware that wild elephants ha killed a certain number of people a caused depredation and consternatic in some areas of Assam.

(c) Total number of persons repo ted to be killed by elephants in A sam during 1986 to 1988 is one hun red and thirty-eight.

(d) The Central Government h given permission to capture 100 el phants in 1985-86, subject to certa conditions. Although, Assam Fore Department captured 95 elephan against this sanction, some stip lations of the sanction requiring h bitat improvement were not compli with. Government of Assam has th refore been requested to take measures to improve the elepha habitat rather than seeking to redu the elephant population through fre captures.